

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:)
)
Giacomo Stefano ROBA et al.)
)
Serial No.: Not yet assigned) Group Art Unit:
)
Filed: December 16, 1999) Examiner:

#3715

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING AN OPTICAL FIBER PREFORM BY COMBUSTIONLESS HYDROLYSIS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and cited in the European search report. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a non-English language:

1. **European Patent Application No. EP 0 160 858 A dated**

November 13, 1985 - Enclosed is an English-language search report from the European Patent Office in the priority application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof.

2. **German Patent Application No. DE 35 29 962 A dated March 5,**

1987 - Enclosed is an English-language search report from the European Patent Office in the priority application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof.

3. **German Patent Application No. DE 36 10 719 A dated October 1,**

1987 - Enclosed is an English-language search report from the European Patent Office in the priority application citing this document and setting forth the relevance thereof.

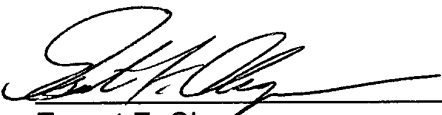
This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 
Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

Dated: December 16, 1999

Enclosures
EFC/FPD/mld